

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 041220Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3752

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1969

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: APPROACHES ON KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 181500, (B) LUSAKA 1911 (NOTAL), (C) STATE 181897

1. ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE LUSAKA CORE GROUP, I TOOK UP THE KOREAN QUESTION WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NGONDO ON AUGUST 3, LEAVING WITH HIM AIDE MEMOIRE DRAWN FROM THE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH (REFTEL C).

2. PERMANENT SECRETARY TOOK A LIVELY INTEREST IN WHAT DISSOLUTION OF UN COMMAND WOULD MEAN FOR PEACE AND STABILITY. HIS QUESTIONS WERE PARTICULARLY PROBING ON MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND ON ROLE U.S. AND PRC MIGHT PLAY IN BRINGING ABOUT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. I OUTLINED FOR HIM RELATIVE MILITARY STRENGTH OF TWO COUNTRIES, STRESSING NORTH KOREA'S SUPERIOR AIR POWER. MR. NGONDO APPEARED ESPECIALLY INTRIGUED WHEN I POINTED OUT SEOUL WAS ONLY 26 MILES FROM DEMILITARIZED ZONE. HE EXPRESSED NUMBER OF TIMES HIS BELIEF THAT U.S. AND PRC COULD PRESSURE NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA INTO A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT. I ARGUED THAT SETTLEMENT OF LASTING NATURE WOULD HAVE

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TO BE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AND THAT

NEITHER U.S. NOR PRC COULD DICTATE TO NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA WHAT THEY SHOULD DO. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION, I SAID U.S. AND SOUTH KOREA WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER IN TO NEGOTIATIONS IN SEPTEMBER AND THAT, WHILE I WAS UNIFORMED ABOUT CHINA AND NORTH KOREA'S INTENTIONS, I THOUGHT CHINA MIGHT BE WILLING TO DO SO AND THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD PROBABLY REFUSE.

3. TOWARDS END OF CONVERSATION NGONDO POINTED OUT THAT GRZ HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA, BUT HE THEN QUICKLY ADDED ZAMBIANS DID NOT ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE ALL OF NORTH KOREA'S CLAIMS. THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF KIM IL SUNG'S CLAIM TO BE LEADER OF 40 MILLION KOREANS.

COMMENT: PERMANENT SECRETARY'S APPROACH TO KOREA LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HIS MIND IS NOT CLOSED ON QUESTION OF UN HIGH COMMAND AND THAT HE WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY GO ALONG WITH A NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ITS DISSOLUTION. THIS OPEN MINDEDNESS COULD, OF COURSE, DISAPPEAR WHEN ZAMBIANS BEGIN TO INTERACT WITH NON-ALIGNED COLLEAGUES.
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